



June 2, 2025

Supervisor Glenn Church

Monterey County Board of Supervisors, District 2
168 West Alisal Street, 1st Floor
Salinas, CA 93901

RE: Request for \$50,000 in Support of the Boronda Adobe Conservation Project

Dear Supervisor Church,

On behalf of the Monterey County Historical Society, I respectfully request your support for a \$50,000 investment in the Boronda Adobe Conservation Project—an urgent effort to preserve the structural integrity and historical value of Casa Boronda, the oldest intact adobe residence in the Salinas Valley.

Constructed in the early 1800s, Casa Boronda is a tangible link to Monterey County's earliest Californio heritage. Listed on the **National Register of Historic Places in 1973** and designated as a **California State Historical Landmark in 1974**, it stands as a rare and irreplaceable cultural asset. However, after more than five decades of weathering, the **52-year-old cedar shingle roof** is now critically compromised.

A recent inspection revealed **over 60 golf ball-sized holes** where cedar shingles have been blown away—gaps that expose the adobe structure to moisture, erosion, and eventual collapse. Given recent extreme weather patterns, the roof may not survive another major storm. Without prompt action, the building faces irreversible deterioration.

The proposed conservation effort will **replace the failing shingles with a Schedule 1 Fire-Rated Composition roofing** material, explicitly chosen for its fire safety rating and its close visual match to the original cedar shingles installed in 1973. This sensitive approach strikes a balance between historical preservation and modern safety standards, ensuring the adobe remains a safe and authentic heritage site for years to come.

Casa Boronda is more than a building—it is a hub for education and heritage tourism. It welcomes **students, historians, and tourists from across the country and around the world**, serving as a living classroom for regional history and early Californian architecture. This project will preserve its legacy and protect the thousands of visitors who rely on it for cultural enrichment and education.

We are committed stewards of Monterey County's heritage and ask for your partnership in securing its future. Your support will ensure that one of Salinas Valley's most iconic structures remains standing, safe, and accessible for generations to come.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



James Perry
Executive Director
Monterey County Historical Society

cc: Ruben G. Mendoza, PhD, President, MCHS Board of Directors